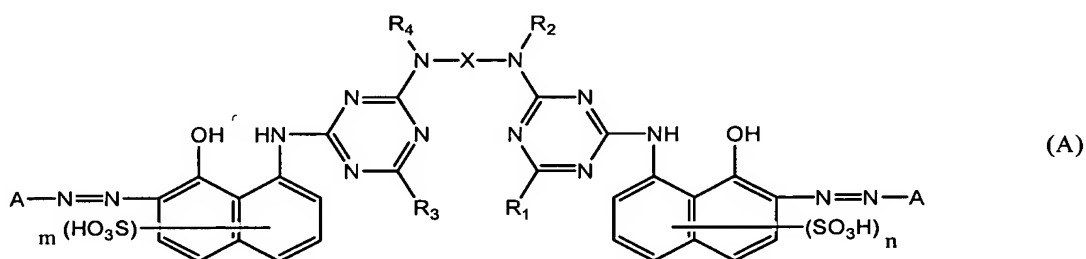


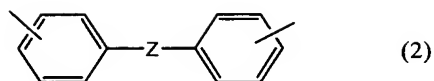
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording comprising a coloring matter and an aqueous medium ~~as main components~~, in which at least one of dyes represented by the formula (A) or a salt thereof ~~their salts~~ is contained as the coloring matter

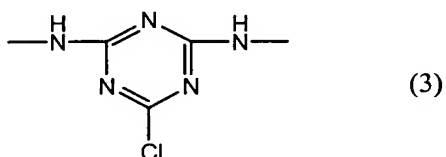
[[.]]



[[[]] wherein R_1 and R_3 , independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_2 and R_4 , independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group, wherein [[(]] the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [[)]], X represents ~~an alkylene group, a phenylene group, a xylylene group, a naphthylene group, a biphenylene group or a divalent bonding group~~ represented by the formula (2)



in which Z represents -CO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCSNH- or formula (3)

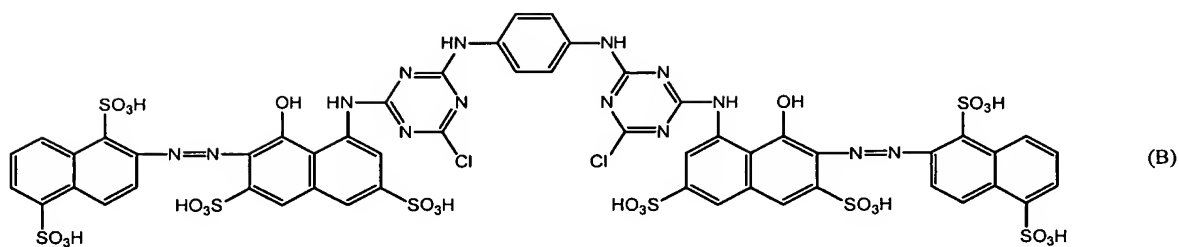


~~(these bonding groups wherein the divalent bonding group~~ may be substituted with a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group ~~[[]]~~, and m and n, independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4 ~~[[]]~~).

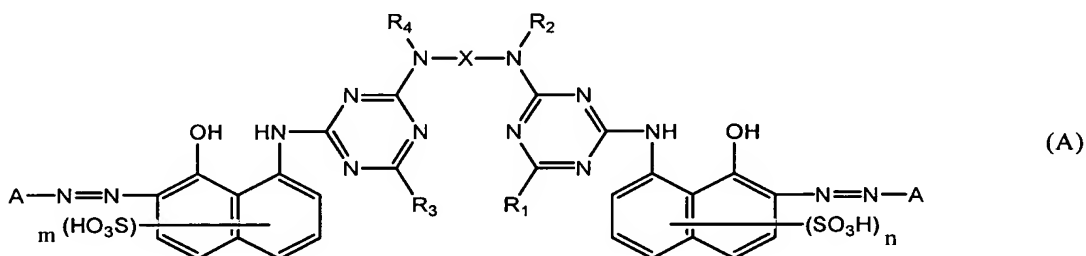
Claim 2 (Original): The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (A), at least one of R_1 and R_3 is a halogen atom.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1,~~ Aqueous ink for ink jet recording comprising a coloring matter and an aqueous medium, in which the dye represented by the formula (B) or a salt thereof is contained as the coloring matter ~~wherein the dyes are dyes represented by the formula (B) or their salts~~

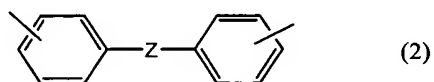


Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, ~~wherein a dye contains at least one of the dyes represented by formula (B) according to claim 5, other dyes~~ further comprising a dye represented by the formula (A) or a salt thereof

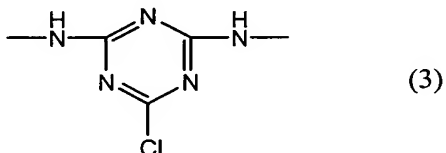


wherein R_1 and R_3 , independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_2 and R_4 , independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group, wherein the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid

group and a sulfonic acid amide group. X represents a divalent bonding group represented by the formula (2)

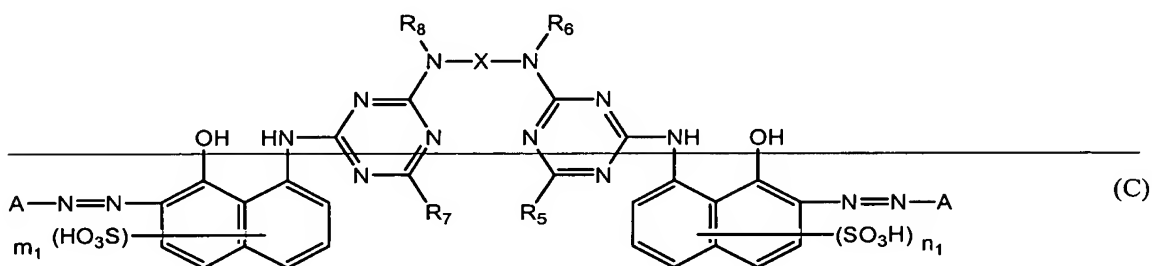


in which Z represents -CO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCSNH- or formula (3)



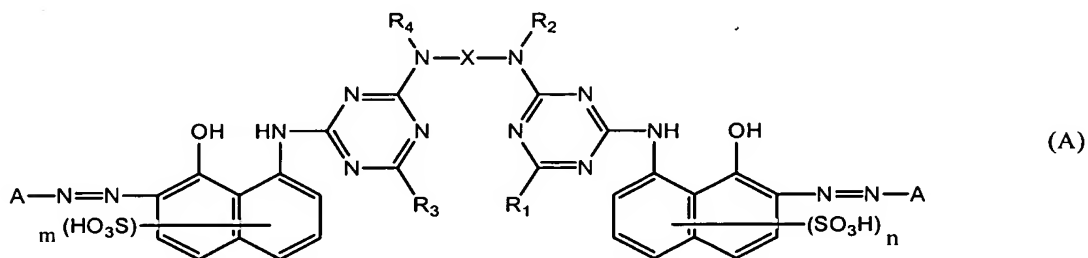
wherein the divalent bonding group may be substituted with a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group, and m and n, independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4.

(C)

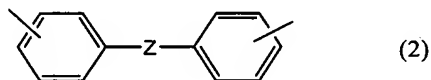


~~[wherein R_5 and R_7 , independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted alkoxy group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_6 and R_8 , independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group (the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group), X represents a divalent bonding group, and m_+ and n_+ , independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4] or their salts.~~

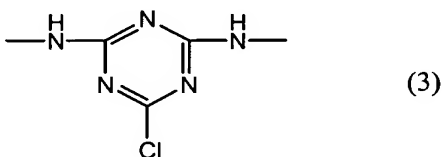
Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a dye, which comprises dissolving a dye represented by the formula (A) or a salt thereof (C) or its salt in water to form an aqueous solution, and adjusting pH of the aqueous solution to 9 or more to remove insoluble matters formed[[.]]



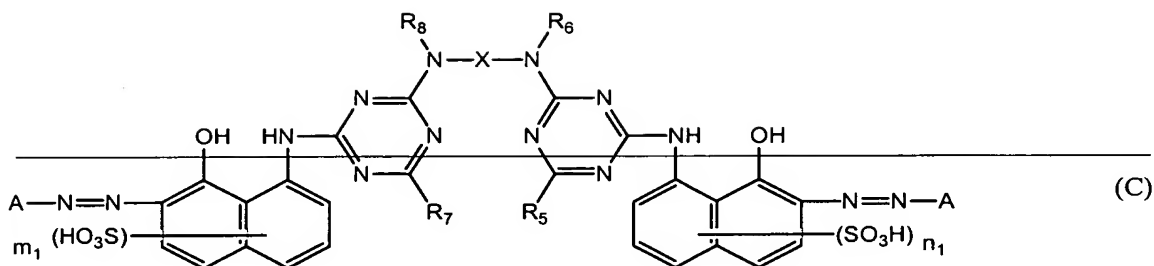
wherein R₁ and R₃, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R₂ and R₄, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group, wherein the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group, X represents a divalent bonding group represented by the formula (2)



in which Z represents -CO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCSNH- or formula (3)



wherein the divalent bonding group may be substituted with a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group, and m and n, independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4



~~{wherein R_5 and R_7 , independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted alkoxy group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_6 and R_8 , independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group (the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group), a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group, X represents a divalent bonding group, and m_1 and n_1 , independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4}.~~

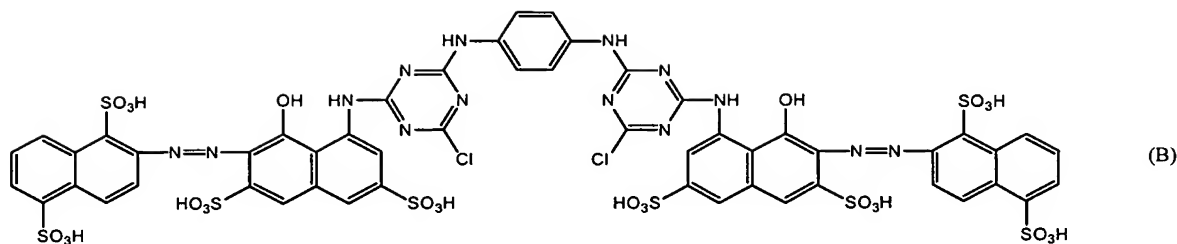
Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A The process for producing a dye according to claim 7, which further comprises, after dissolving the dye represented by the formula (C) ~~as recited in claim 7 (A) or a salt thereof~~ its salt in water to form the aqueous solution, mixing the aqueous solution with a water-soluble organic solvent to crystallize the dye.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process for producing a dye according to claim 7, which further comprises mixing the aqueous solution obtained by dissolving the dye represented by the formula (C) as recited in claim 7 (A) or a salt thereof its salt in water and adjusting pH of the aqueous solution to 9 or more to remove insoluble matters formed, with a water-soluble organic solvent to crystallize the dye.

Claims 10 and 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process for producing the dye according to claim 9, wherein in the formula (C) (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein ~~[[(]]~~ the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group ~~[[)]]~~.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~The process for producing the dye according to claim 9;~~ A process for producing a dye, which comprises dissolving the dye represented by the formula (B) or a salt thereof in water to form an aqueous solution, and adjusting pH of the aqueous solution to 9 or more to remove insoluble matters formed, and mixing the aqueous solution thus obtained with a water-soluble organic solvent to crystallize the dye wherein the dye is a dye represented by the formula (B) or its salt



Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye characterized by containing at least one of the dyes produced by the process according to claim 13.

Claims 15 and 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim 2, wherein in the formula (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [()] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [()] .

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [()] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [()].

Claims 19-22 (Canceled)

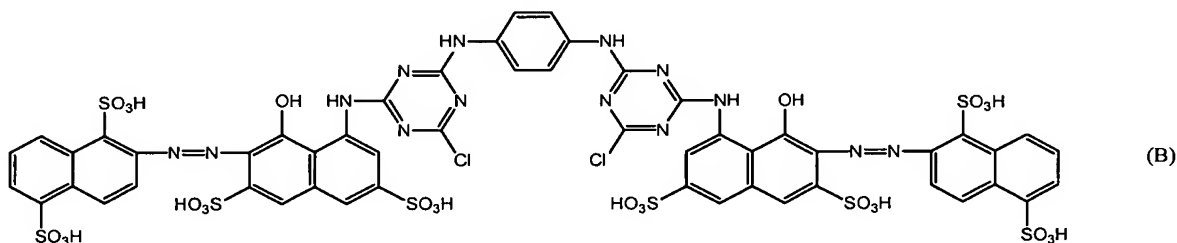
Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The process for producing the dye according to claim 8, wherein in the formula (C) (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [()] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [()].

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The process for producing the dye according to claim 7, wherein in the formula (C) (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [()] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester

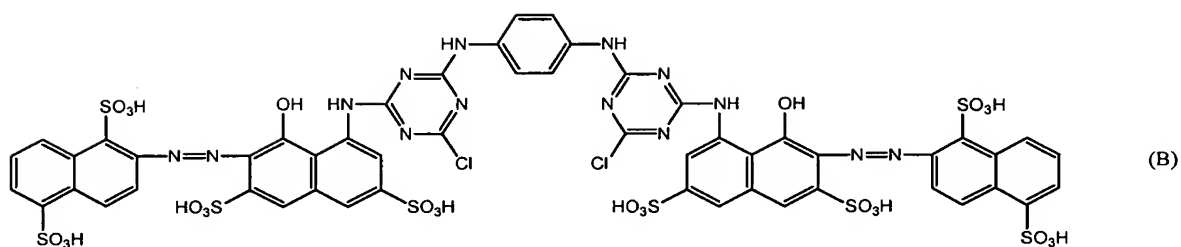
group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group

[()]].

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~The process for producing the dye according to claim~~
~~8; A process for producing a dye, which comprises dissolving the dye represented by the~~
~~formula (B) or a salt thereof in water to form an aqueous solution, and thereafter mixing the~~
~~aqueous solution with a water-soluble organic solvent to crystallize the dye wherein the dye~~
~~is a dye represented by the formula (B) or its salt~~



Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~The process for producing the dye according to claim~~
~~7; A process for producing a dye, which comprises dissolving a dye represented by the~~
~~formula (B) or a salt thereof in water to form an aqueous solution, and adjusting pH of the~~
~~aqueous solution to 9 or more to remove insoluble matters formed wherein the dye is a dye~~
~~represented by the formula (B) or its salt~~



Claim 27 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 12.

Claims 28 and 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 9.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 8.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 7.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 26.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 25.

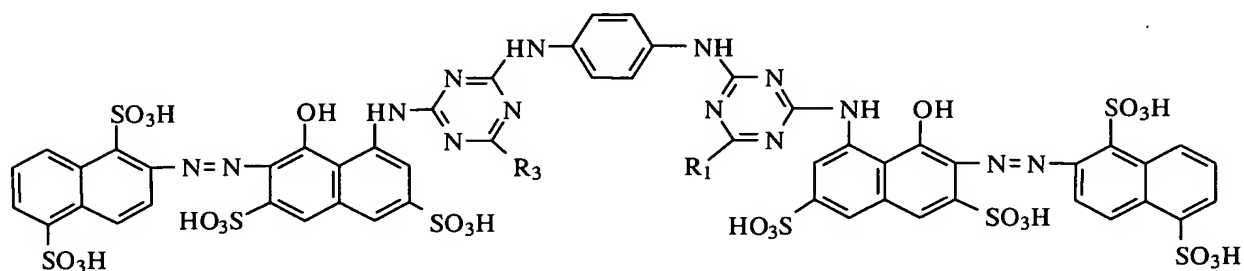
Claim 35 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 24.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 23.

Claims 37-40 (Canceled)

Claim 41 (New): An aqueous ink for ink jet recording, comprising a dye represented by the formula (D) and an aqueous medium:

(D)



wherein R₁ and R₃ independently represent a hydroxyl group or a chlorine atom, with the proviso that R₁ and R₃ are not simultaneously a hydroxyl group.